

REMARKS

In the action of July 15, 2010, which was made final, the examiner objected to the specification, objected to the drawings, rejected claim 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9-12 under 35 USC § 102 as anticipated by Lev *et al* and rejected claims 3, 4, and 8 under 35 USC § 103 as unpatentable over Lev in view of Moret *et al*. The examiner indicated that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter.

First, it should be noted that the examiner agreed to withdraw the finality of the action in a telephone conversion of October 12, 2010. Hence, this amendment is being filed as a response to a non-final office action.

The important difference between the reference to Lev and applicant's invention is the structure for positively preventing rotational movement of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle. This is in addition to structure which prevents translational movement between those two elements. In applicant's structure, the fixed receiving portion of the handle includes a hollow upper portion, into which a lower part of the force conversion assembly (claim 1) fits. The same is true for claim 10 (forced coupling system) which includes a rib member on an internal surface of the hollow portion of the fixed receiving portion, and for claim 12 (brushhead assembly). Note that Lev includes no similar structure for its handle. In applicant's attachment system, a first connection assembly includes a part on the fixed receiving portion, in particular the hollow portion thereof, and a corresponding mating part on the force conversion assembly (claim 1) which positively prevents rotational movement of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle. This specific structural combination of a portion of the handle and a mating portion of the force conversion system provides a positive, reliable mechanical prevention of rotational movement of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle. This is not true for the structure of Figures 9-12 of Lev, which includes a handle 128, a seal 154 above the handle and a brushhead assembly 132, which includes a projection 158 which fits into a slot 159 in the seal. As indicated previously, this arrangement would prevent the brushhead assembly from rotating relative to seal 154, but would not prevent rotation of the seal (and the brushhead) relative to the handle 128. Note that there is no structure in Lev which positively prevents rotation of seal 154 relative to handle 128. In the embodiment of Figures 13 and 14, a spring tab 174 from the brushhead fits

into a slot 176 in the handle. However, there is nothing in Figures 13 or 14 (or in the embodiment of Figures 9-12) which teach a handle having a fixed receiving portion with an upper hollow portion into which fits the lower portion of a force conversion system. In Lev, a drive shaft from the motor extends upwardly into a yoke in the brushhead on which a bristle head is mounted. This is a completely different structural arrangement for attaching the brushhead assembly to the handle and does not include the claimed handle/force conversion system combination which results in rotation of the brushhead relative to the handle being prevented.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 10 and 12 are patentable over Lev.

Since claims 2-9 and 11 are dependent upon the independent claims, those claims are also allowable. However, certain dependent claims should be specifically noted. These include claim 2, which combines a spring assembly and a carrier assembly (elements 22 and 24 in applicant's Figure 2). Such a structure is not shown in Lev. The same is true for claim 7, which defines a second connection arrangement between the force conversion assembly and the handle for providing further structure preventing rotational movement of the toothbrush. Nothing in Lev teaches such a second connection arrangement.

Allowance of the application is now respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,
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